

Docket No.: M3653.0001/P001
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Sandra K. Richardson et al.

#36

Application No.: 09/334,256

Confirmation No.: 5134

Filed: June 16, 1999

Art Unit: 3625

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PLANNING AND MONITORING
MULTIPLE TASKS BASED ON USER
DEFINED CRITERIA AND PREDICTIVE
ABILITY

Examiner: F. Thompson

SUBMISSION TO VERIFY CLAIMS ON APPEAL

Attention: Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the telephone discussion on January 6, 2004 between Supervisory Examiner Jeffrey Smith and the undersigned representative, Applicant submits herewith a listing of the claims on appeal.

Examiner Smith, Examiner Forest Thompson, and Applicant all concur that the status of the claims as currently presented in Appendix A of the Appeal Brief filed on October 21, 2002 and as attached hereto, is correct. The present status of the claims attached hereto incorporates all claim amendments which have been entered, and do not include any proposed amendments which have not been entered.

Applicant respectfully submits that this paper should clarify any confusion which may exist regarding the status of the previously filed Amendments which form the basis for


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remand by the Board of Appeals. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that this application be resubmitted to the Board and docketed thereat for appeal.

Dated: January 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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1. (Previously Presented) A method for modeling multiple tasks for multiple users comprising the steps of:

breaking a project into said multiple tasks;

activating a current tasking horizon, said tasking horizon comprising one of a plurality of time frames over which said multiple tasks can be completed;

selecting a language for at least one of said multiple tasks;

receiving an actual date for said at least one of said multiple tasks;

receiving an estimated date for said at least one task;

calculating a first negative churn if said received estimated date is created in or moved into said current tasking horizon;

calculating a first positive churn if said received estimated date is deleted or moved out of said current tasking horizon;

calculating a second positive churn if said received estimated date exists in said current tasking horizon and said received actual date is moved out of or is created outside of said current tasking horizon;

calculating a third positive churn if said received actual date is moved out of said current tasking horizon and an accompanying received estimated date is not in said current tasking horizon;

calculating a second negative churn when said received actual date is created in or is moved into said current tasking horizon and said received estimated date is not in said current tasking horizon; and

receiving language that corresponds to said actual date, wherein a verb describes a reason for said actual date and for said churn.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

classifying said received verb as employee dependent.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

classifying said received verb as task dependent.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

classifying said received verb as environment dependent.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

comparing said tasks of said project to previously performed tasks;

extracting previously performed task completion data, said data including previous churn data and risk factor data; and computing an expected task completion time based at least in part on said previously performed task completion data.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

comparing said tasks of said project to previously performed tasks;

extracting a risk factor associated with said previously performed tasks;
and computing a new risk factor based at least in part on said extracted risk factor.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for modeling tasks comprising the steps of:
breaking a project into multiple tasks, wherein there is at least a first task and a second task;

selecting a current tasking horizon from a plurality of potential event horizons representing a plurality of timeframes;

selecting at least two verbs for said first task;

selecting at least two verbs for said second task;

assigning said first task to a first task assignment station;

assigning said second task to a second task assignment station;

receiving a predicted start date and a predicted completion date for said first task from said first task assignment station;

receiving a predicted start date and a predicted completion date for said second task from said second task assignment station;

receiving an actual start date and a first verb for said first task;

receiving an actual start date and a second verb for said second task;

computing churn of said first task;

computing churn of said second task;

computing a risk factor for said first task based on said first verb; and

computing a risk factor for said second task based on said second verb.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for task modeling comprising:

a management module for breaking a project into tasks, selecting a tasking horizon and for assigning at least two verbs for at least one of said tasks;

a task assignment station for receiving said at least one task and for entering a predicted start date for said at least one task and for entering an actual start date;

wherein said management module and said task assignment station are operationally connected and wherein said management module receives said predicted start date and said actual start date and computes a churn and assigns a risk factor to said task based on at least one of said verbs, wherein said at least one verb describes a reason for said churn.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said actual date comprises an actual start date and an actual stop date.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said method results in a reduction of said churn.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said actual date comprises an actual start date and an actual stop date.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said received estimated dates comprise an estimated start date and an estimated stop date.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising assigning a risk factor to a second task which is dependent upon a first task.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said second task is dependent on said first task.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for modeling tasks comprising the steps of:

- breaking a project into tasks;
- selecting a tasking horizon;
- selecting at least two verbs for at least one of said tasks, wherein each of said verbs is task dependent;
- receiving a predicted start date and a predicted stop date for said at least one task;
- receiving an actual start date and an actual stop date for said at least one task;
- receiving one of said at least two verbs that corresponds to said actual start and stop dates, wherein said verb describes at least one reason for said actual start and stop dates;
- comparing said predicted start and stop dates with said actual start and stop dates;
- computing churn of said at least one task; and
- reviewing said churn in view of said at least one verb, and assigning a risk factor to said task based on said review.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said risk factor is equal to a percentage of the time between said predicted start and stop dates.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said previous risk factor is task dependent.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said apparatus classifies said churn as positive churn or negative churn.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said apparatus is utilized in a churn monitoring program to reduce said churn.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for task modeling comprising:

a management module for breaking a project into tasks, selecting a tasking horizon and for assigning at least two verbs for at least one of said tasks;

a task assignment station for receiving said at least one task and for entering a predicted start and stop date for said at least one task and for entering an actual start and stop date;

wherein said management module and said task assignment station are operationally connected and wherein said management module receives said predicted start and stop dates and said actual start and stop dates and computes a churn and assigns a risk factor to said task based on at least one of said verbs having a reason associated therewith used to describe said churn.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for modeling tasks comprising the steps of:

breaking a project into a plurality of tasks;

selecting a tasking horizon;

selecting at least two verbs for at least one of said tasks;

receiving a predicted start date for said at least one task;

receiving an actual start date for said at least one task;

receiving one of said at least two verbs that corresponds to said actual start date, wherein said verb describes a reason for said actual start date;

comparing said predicted start date with said actual start date;

computing churn of said at least one task;

computing a risk factor based at least in part on at least one of said computed churn and said received verb.

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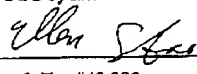
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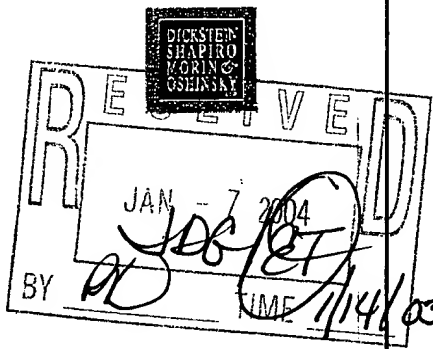
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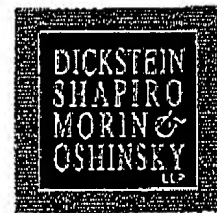
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Ellen S. Tao